

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-4 have been amended, support for which can be found at least at page 5 (fifth full paragraph of the Applicants' specification). No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071,540).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540). The Official Action states that Dworkin discloses all the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of generating chats based at a predetermined time. However, the Official Action takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate chat space at a predetermined time. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing apparatus, including:

... a generation unit configured to generate the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation;

a providing unit configured to provide the chat space to the first terminal and the second terminal designated to be distributed by the first terminal; and

a supply unit configured to supply the whole or a part of the contents of chatting performed in the chat space to the first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal (emphasis added).

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).¹

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user downloads an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.²

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in advance. In operation, a user, such as a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Personal computers (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3).³ During the delivery of the streaming content, a chat

¹ Dworkin at paragraph 14.

² Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

³ Application at page 8.

space is created corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution. In this way, the chat space is automatically generated to be coincident with the delivery of the streaming content.

Moreover, as the chat space is available coincident to a streaming distribution based on reservations, the present invention further provides a supply unit, which supplies the whole, or part, of the contents of chatting performed in the chat space to the first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal. In other words, the entirety of all conversations performed during the streaming may be delivered to the user setting up the presentation. One application of such a transcript supply would be a mechanism to inform users who were unable to participate in the presentation of the discussion between participants during the streaming presentation.

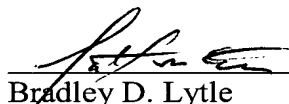
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-4, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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